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AP Literature and Composition

15 January 2010

This I Believe Reflection

This project was different from anything else I have done in literature classes before, since we were working from a very open-ended prompt and basically free to write about whatever we wanted, as long as it fell within the concept. Also, there we were to read and record our final essay to submit to a website. This made me a bit more, shall we say, self-conscious of my writing than usual. Not only did I have to write, I had to pay attention to what I was writing as it would sound if it were spoken. This made me more aware of several things, such as the use of the passive voice, and helped me to correct those mistakes before the essay went to print and was graded.

The prompt was rather difficult to write for, but in the end it was the prompt which made the assignment so interesting. Before I began my own writing, or even made an outline about what I wanted to do, I listened to and read a number of the "This I Believe" essays on the website. This really gave me a perspective on what the project and the prompt was all about, and it helped immensely when I was trying to get the style for both the writing and the reading right. Also, I found many of the essays on the websites to be enlightening and not only learned how to write my own from them, but also took away a few more general ideas from them as well. In this respect, this assignment had a much greater impact than many others do. Where most papers or essays require you to write about something or someone else, this one asked me to question my own beliefs, and to find one strong enough to share with others, like the ones on the website. This made it more than just another assignment; it asked me to examine my own ideas and to think about those ideas that make us who we are.